view of the overall constraint of resources.

(c) The power supply is being augmented by taking up Renovation and Modernisation Programme, reduction in the stabilisation period of the newly commissioned units, improving/ modernising maintenance procedure to bring down the duration/outage time of the units, ensuring better quality of coal for the power stations, efforts to reduce transmission and distribution losses, addition of short-gestation capacity, energy conservation measures etc.

Fire in the Vanakbori Thermal Power Station

577. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO:
DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge fire broke out recently at the major thermal unit of Vanakbori Thermal Power Station in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been made to find out the causes of the fire and to assess the loss of life, plant and machinery; and

(c) what are the details of the action taken by Government in the matter to punish those who are held responsible for the fire?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) Yes, Sir.

((b) A Committee of experts to investigate the cause of the fire has been set up by the Government of Gujarat. The approximate loss suffered has been estimated to be of the order of Rs. one crore.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Bodhghat Hydro Power Scheme

578. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 500 MW Bodhghat Hydro-electric Power Scheme in Bastar, Madhya Pradesh has since been cleared by the Central Government;

(b) if so, what progress has been made in regard to this project so far and when it was initiated; and

(c) what are the details of the steps proposed to be taken to undertake compensatory afforestation to avoid disturbance of the ecological balance and for the rehabilitation of the tribal families which would be dislocated as a result of the construction of the dam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) The Indira Sarovar (Bodhghat) Hydroelectric Project (500 MW) in Madhya Pradesh was sanctioned in 1979; the project is yet to be cleared in terms of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

(b) and (c) Construction work relating to infrastructure and excavation etc. was taken up in 1981. The Madhya Pradesh authorities have intimated that compensatory afforestation is proposed to be undertaken in twice the area of forest land (5704 hectares) likely to be submerged by the project and that 11000 hectares of non-forest land have been identified for this purpose. In addition, the 1712 oustee families would be fully compensated and resettled in nearby places.